

Message Text

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13
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7289

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7325

FOR ADMIRAL BAGLEY

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MNUC SP

SUBJECT: NPW VISITS TO SPANISH PORTS AND TO GIBRALTAR

SUMMARY: THERE ARE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS REQUIRING SOME QUICK DECISIONS ON OUR PART WITH RESPECT TO THE PLANNED VISITS OF THE USS NIMITZ AND USS SOUTH CAROLINA TO GIBRALTAR OCT 1-3 AND WITH RESPECT TO THE BEARING THIS HAS ON GOS CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE OF NPW VISITS TO SPANISH PORTS. THERE MAY BE THE POSSIBILITY OF A ONE TIME VISIT OF THE NIMITZ TO A SPANISH PORT, BUT PROBABLY ONLY ON THE CONDITION THAT NO SHIPS VISIT GIBRALTAR AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NORTH AMERICAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS (DURAN) CALLED ME YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO INFORM ME THAT FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA HAD NOW TALKED TO THE NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEFENSE MATTERS (LT GEN GUTIERREZ MELLADO) REGARDING THE IMPENDING VISIT OF THE USS NIMITZ TO GIBRALTAR. DURAN SUGGESTED THERE IS A DESIRE OF THE PART OF SENIOR SPANISH
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AUTHORITIES TO FIND SOME COMPROMISE SOLUTION AND INDICATED THAT

SOME THOUGH WAS BEING GIVEN TO OFFERING ON A ONE TIME BASIS A VISIT TO A SPANISH PORT AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO ANY VISIT TO GIBRALTAR AT THIS TIME. DURAN WAS QUITE DIRECT IN STATING THAT A GIBRALTAR VISIT NOW WOULD PREJUDICE GOS CONSIDERATION OF THE NPW VISIT ISSUE.

2. I TOLD DURAN THAT CHIEF JUSMG HAD BEEN TOLD SEPT 23 BY A SENIOR SPANISH NAVY OFFICIAL THAT IT MIGHT IN FACT TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS TO DEAL WITH THE MANY TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AN NPW VISITS BUT THAT I WOULD BE SEEING OREJA LATER IN THE DAY AND WOULD PURSUE THE MATTER WITH HIM. I DID SO THAT EVENING AT THE PALACE. HE TOO GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE OFFER OF A VISIT BY THE NIMITZ TO A SPANISH PORT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE PROVIDED NO VISIT WERE MADE TO GIBRALTAR AND URGED THAT I TALK FURTHER WITH GUTIERREZ MELLADO. SHOULD THE NIMITZ VISIT GIBRALTAR HE (OREJA) WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT AT THE TIME AND WOULD RAISE THE MATTER IN THE MEETING THE SAME DAY OF THE SPANISH POSITION. HE WOULD STRONGLY PREFER NOT TO BE PUT IN THIS POSITION. IN SUM, OREJA INDICATED THAT HE AND OTHER MEMEBRS OF THE GOVT WOULD PERHAPS FO SOME DISTANCE TO MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS FOR A SHORE VISIT FOR THE NIMITZ IN ORDER TO AVOID HAVING THE GIBTALTAR QUESTION THRUST UPON THEM IN THIS WAY AT A JUNCTURE WHEN THEIR PLATTER IS AMPLY FULL WITH OTHER PRESSIGN MATTERERS.

3. COMMENT: OUT OF THIS AWKARD SITUATION COULD COME SOMETHING USEFUL IF WE CAN MOVE SUFFICIENTLY QUICKLY AND WITH FLEXIBILITY. BUT THERE ARE CLEARLY QUESTIONS WHICH NEED TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE I CARRY THE MATTER FURTHER AT THIS END.

4. FIRST AND FORSOME, THUS FAR WE HAVE ONLY BEEN TALKING ABOUT THE NIMITZ, SINCE THE ISSUE POSED WAS THE DIFFICULTY CREATED BY TAKING HER TO GIBRALTAR SHORLY AFTER HAVING ON BOARD THE SPANISH NAVY MINISTER. I ASSUME THAT AUTHORITIES ARE NOT YET AWARE OF THE PLANS FOR OTHER SHIPS TO ACCOMPANY THE NIMTZ INTO HARBOR AT GILBRATAR. (WHAT THIS EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD IS THAT ONLY THE USS SOUTH CAROLINA IS TO ACCOMPANY HER.) TO SUGGEST NOW TO THE SPANISH THAT A MUCH MORE ELABORATE VISIT TO S TO A SPANISH PORT, INVLOVING THE PROBLEM SERIOUSLY. THUS, I WILL NEED TO KNOW PRECISELY WHAT SHIPS ARE INVOLVED IN ALL OF THIS. CONFIDENTIAL

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AND, WERE A VISIT BY THE NIMITZ TO A SPANISH POSSIBLE. COULD SHIPS INCLUDING THE SOUTH CARLOINA MAKE ARRANGEMENTS SO AS NEITHER TO CALL AT GIBRALTAR NOR TO ACCOMPANY THE NIMITZ TO A SPANISH PORT.

5. I HAVE NO CLEAR INDICATION YET WHICH SPANISH PORT MIGHT BE OFFFERED BY HAVE SOME REASON TO BELIEVE IT MIGHT ROTA. WOULD THIS BE ACCEPTABLE? WHAT ALTERNATIVES MIGHT WE SUGGEST

IF IT COME TO THAT (E.G. PALMA, WHERE THE NIMITZ HAS RECENTLY BEEN NOT TOO FAR OFF SHORE)?

6. FURTHER, HOW CLOSE TO SHORE WOULD THE NIMITZ HAVE TO ANCHOR?

7. THE DELICACY OF THE SITUATION IN WHICH WE HAVE BEEN THRUST IS OBVIOUS. ONCE OREJA HAS PUBLICLY CRITICIZED THE GIBRALTAR VISIT BY NPW'S WE WILL FIND THE PROSPECTS FOR AN EARLY FAVORABLE POLITICAL DCISION ON THE MATTER OF NPW VISITS TO SPANISH PORTS COMPLICATED. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE IS NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY PRESSIGN FURTHER FOR A VISIT BY THE NIMITZ TO A SPANISH PORT UNLESS THIS CAN CLEARLY BECOME AN ALTERNATIVE TO ANY US NAVY SHIP VISITS TO GIBRALTAR IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

8. BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER, I URGENTLY NEED ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, AND IF ROTA IS NOT CCEPTABLE FOR A VISIT BY THE NINITZ THE RATIONALE FOR THAT. I WANT TO BE VERY SURE OF ANY ASSURANCES I GIVE THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES. I WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT WITH OREJA LEAVING FOR THE UNITED STATES TOMORROW, MY IMMEDIATE INTERLOCUTOR ON THIS WILL HAVE TO BE GUTIERREZ MELLADO.
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